

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, SREF, MASS, HA, US

SUBJECT: SECTION 502(B) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON HAITI

REF: STATE 311121

1. HAITIAN AMBASSADOR SALOMON WAS INVITED TO THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (DEC. 28) TO INFORM HIM OF THE DELIVERY OF THE UNCLASSIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON HAITI TO CONGRESS. WE STRESSED TO SALOMON THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THESE REPORTS, GAVE HIM A COPY OF SECTION 502(B), POINTING OUT RELEVANT SUBSECTIONS, AND STRESSED THAT REPORTS ON FIVE OTHER COUNTRIES, IN ADDITION TO HAITI, WERE ALSO REQUIRED.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT WE NOTED CHRISTMAS AMNESTY DECREED BY PRESIDENT DUVALIER, WHICH WE CHARACTERIZED AS ENCOURAGING STEP THAT SHOULD SERVE HAITIAN INTERESTS WELL. WE EXPLAINED THAT REPORT OF THIS LATEST AMNESTY COULD NOT BE
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INCLUDED IN SECTION 502(B) REPORT WHICH WENT FORWARD TODAY, SINCE ALL REPORTS DESCRIBE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AS OF OCTOBER, BUT ASSURED SALOMON THAT CONGRESS WOULD NONETHELESS BE INFORMED OF THE LATEST AMNESTY.

3. SALOMON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BRIEFING, AND THEN

ASKED PRECISELY WHAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAITI RECEIVES FROM THE U.S. THAT BRINGS IT WITHIN PURVIEW OF SECTION 502(B). WE NOTED MODEST IMET MILITARY TRAINING AND FMS CASH SALES PROGRAMS FOR HAITI.

4. SALOMON OBSERVED THAT THE CONTINUAL ARRIVAL HERE OF HAITIANS EXPELLED FROM THE BAHAMAS TENDS TO KEEP HAITI IN THE LIMELIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NEARLY ALL OF THE SO-CALLED REFUGEES ARE FREE TO RETURN TO HAITI, EXCEPT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN CUBA, HE EXPECTS THE REFUGEE ISSUE TO INTENSIFY, SINCE THE BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR HERE INFORMED HIM RECENTLY THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE EXPULSION OF 15,000 HAITIANS ILLEGALLY IN THE BAHAMAS.
ROBINSON

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